

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 12, without prejudice. Kindly amend claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15-17, and 19-21, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A bottle stopper for a [[wine]] bottle ~~or the like~~, which bottle stopper comprises a body having a sealing member which sits within [[the]] a neck of the bottle in use and which extends radially outwardly to seal the bottle neck, the stopper further having a passageway extending upwardly therethrough to communicate with [[the]] an interior of the bottle and which incorporates or communicates with a chamber within the stopper in which is housed an oxygen-scavenging medium or oxygen absorber, wherein the stopper further has a closure [[means]] to close the passageway and which is operable by an actuator [[means]] that is external to the bottle in use to enable the user to open the passageway when the stopper is in place.

Claim 2 (original): A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the bottle stopper has a mechanism for compressing the sealing member substantially axially of the stopper to expand the sealing member laterally/substantially radially of the stopper into sealing contact with the neck of the bottle.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the actuator for opening the closure [[means]] for the passageway is the same as or coupled to an actuator of the mechanism for compressing the sealing member.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

Claim 4 (currently amended): A bottle stopper as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the oxygen-scavenging ~~[[means]]~~ medium or oxygen absorber, comprises reduced iron or a polymer containing unsaturated carbon-carbon double bonds.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A bottle stopper as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the oxygen scavenging ~~[[means]]~~ medium or oxygen absorber has or is associated with an indicator ~~[[means]]~~ to indicate when the oxygen scavenging ~~[[means]]~~ medium or oxygen absorber has scavenged the oxygen within the bottle.

Claim 6 (original): A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the indicator comprises an indicator compound which changes colour.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A bottle stopper as claimed in claim ~~[[5 or]]~~ 6, wherein the indicator compound is separate from the oxygen scavenging ~~[[means]]~~ medium or oxygen absorber and is housed within a chamber in the stopper that has a transparent wall or has a window to enable ~~[[the]]~~ a change of appearance of the indicator ~~[[means]]~~ to be viewed externally.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A bottle stopper as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 5, wherein the indicator ~~[[means]]~~ and/or oxygen scavenging ~~[[means]]~~ medium or oxygen absorber is housed within a chamber that is externally accessible.

Claim 9 (original): A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the chamber is accessible through removal of a screw-threaded or push/snap-fit cap that encloses and seals the chamber.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim ~~[[7]]~~ 5, wherein the indicator ~~[[means]]~~ is housed in an uppermost chamber having a cap with a window for visibility.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the oxygen scavenging [[means]] medium or oxygen absorber is housed in a chamber below the indicator [[means]] and separately accessible by uncoupling an upper part of the bottle stopper body.

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): A bottle stopper for a [[wine]] bottle or the like, which bottle stopper comprises a body having a sealing member which sits within [[the]] a neck of the bottle in use and which extends radially outwardly to seal the bottle neck, the stopper further having a passageway extending upwardly therethrough to communicate with [[the]] an interior of the bottle and which incorporates or communicates with a chamber within the stopper in which is housed an oxygen-scavenging medium or oxygen absorber, wherein the oxygen scavenging [[means]] medium or oxygen absorber has or is associated with an indicator [[means]] to indicate when the oxygen scavenging [[means]] medium or oxygen absorber has scavenged or absorbed the oxygen within the bottle, the stopper having a transparent wall or a window to enable [[the]] a change of appearance of the indicator [[means]] to be viewed externally by the user.

Claim 14 (original): A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the bottle stopper has a mechanism for compressing the sealing member substantially axially of the stopper to expand the sealing member laterally/substantially radially of the stopper into sealing contact with the neck of the bottle.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 13 [[or 14]], wherein the oxygen-scavenging [[means,]] or oxygen absorber, comprises reduced iron or a polymer containing unsaturated carbon-carbon double bonds.

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SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
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Claim 16 (currently amended): A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 13,~~14 or 15~~, wherein the indicator comprises an indicator compound which changes colour.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 13,~~14, 15, or 16~~, wherein the indicator ~~[[means]]~~ and/or the oxygen scavenging ~~[[means]]~~ medium or oxygen absorber is housed within a chamber that is externally accessible.

Claim 18 (original): A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the chamber is accessible through removal of a screw-threaded or push/snap-fit cap that encloses and seals the chamber.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the indicator ~~[[means]]~~ is housed in an uppermost chamber having a cap with a window for visibility.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the oxygen scavenging ~~[[means]]~~ medium or oxygen absorber is housed in a chamber below the indicator ~~[[means]]~~ and separately accessible by uncoupling an upper part of the bottle stopper body.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A bottle stopper for a ~~[[wine]] bottle or the like~~, which bottle stopper comprises a body having a sealing member which sits within ~~[[the]]~~ a neck of the bottle in use and which extends radially outwardly to seal the bottle neck, the stopper further having a passageway extending upwardly therethrough to communicate with ~~[[the]]~~ an interior of the bottle and which incorporates or communicates with a chamber within the stopper in which is housed an oxygen-scavenging medium or oxygen absorber, wherein the oxygen scavenging medium or oxygen absorber is housed within a chamber that is externally accessible by a portion of the bottle stopper that is readily demountable by the user to enable the user to access and replace the oxygen scavenging medium or oxygen absorber and reclose the chamber,

wherein the chamber is accessible through removal of a screw-threaded or push/snap-fit cap that encloses and seals the chamber.

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FAX. 603.668.8567